

proud to celebrate Wanda's life and recognize her many contributions to our community.

My friend, Wanda, will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. MARY WOODRUFF

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Woodruff of Amherst County, Virginia, who turned 104 years young last week.

Born and raised in Amherst, Mrs. Woodruff and her husband of 63 years built their iconic country store in 1952 with their own two hands, near the site where Mary's grandfather opened the first Black-owned business in the county.

For decades they served their community, providing groceries to locals and gas to travelers, all while raising five children and several foster children in the apartment above the store.

This multigenerational family business was reinvented as Woodruff's Cafe and Pie Shop by Mary's youngest daughter, Angela Scott, in 1998. Since then, business has been booming, attracting patrons from far and wide to try their delicious pies, including a visit from Al Roker from the "Today" show last year.

To this day, nearly 70 years after opening the country store's doors, the 104-year-old Mary Woodruff still works at the shop and "holds court" at the back table where she greets customers and tells stories. Mrs. Woodruff, her family, and the pies are truly a blessing to our central Virginia community.

I wish Mrs. Woodruff a very happy birthday, and I look forward to stopping by the shop sometime soon.

HOLDING FOREIGN COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 945, the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act.

The United States has the most robust, liquid, and advanced capital markets in the world. Companies from around the globe flock to the U.S. capital markets to fund their businesses.

However, to participate in our markets, companies need to play by our rules, and Chinese firms listed on American exchanges are the worst and most frequent violators of the rules.

Gone are the days when we can sit idly by and let Chinese firms, many with strong ties to the Chinese Communist Party, participate in our markets at the expense of protection for everyday investors.

Most publicly traded firms are audited by public accounting firms which,

in turn, are overseen by the PCAOB. This gives investors confidence that the books are accurate. China, however, refuses to let the PCAOB review its auditors.

The results are that investors lack confidence in the validity and reliability of a company's financial data. Worse, thousands of investors are defrauded. And the worst case scenario, American savers are funding Chinese state-owned enterprises which are fueling China's civil-military fusion and, in some cases, directly financing China's military space and cyberspace buildup, threatening U.S. national security.

As a member of the China Task Force, I strongly support this legislation. I urge this body to pass it. And we can no longer allow China to take advantage of our rules and defraud our investors.

CELEBRATING BETTY AND ELLINGTON PEEK'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, on Thanksgiving Day this year, Betty and Ellington Peek were also celebrating something else, their 70th wedding anniversary.

After meeting at a dance in 1950, Betty and Ellington got married and moved to Oakdale, California, which is a well-known ranching and rodeo town south of Sacramento.

Shortly after that, Ellington was drafted for the Korean war and he served in our military for 1 year. He came home to Betty and their first son, Andy, who was born while he was overseas. They lived in both Susanville and then later the Cottonwood/Anderson area, running auction yards for cattle until Ellington was finally able to live the dream and buy the Shasta Auction Yard that he had worked at for so many years.

For over 30 years, Ellington and Betty have been staples, not just in their Shasta County livestock community, but all northern California with their innovative way of doing business, helping ranchers from across the country sell their cattle via satellite and on the internet.

Through hard work and a strong bond, the Peeks have found great success in livestock, but even greater success in marriage and family and their long list of friends, of which I count myself, and am proud to do so.

So Betty and Ellington, happy 70th anniversary. I wish you continued happiness for many years to come. You are pillars of our community. We are proud of you.

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FLETCHER). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, when I was about 8 years old, I read a book. It was on a famous New York Yankee first baseman named Lou Gehrig. He was nicknamed "The Iron Horse" because of his great athletic ability. He could hit, he could field. His durability was legendary. As a great athlete, his character was marked by that ability to adjust and overcome.

But then something happened. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis caused Lou Gehrig to lose control of his bodily functions. That famous durability of his was mocked by this cruel, unforgiving, neurodegenerative disease, which is aggressive, that we now know as ALS. There was no cure then and there is no cure now. ALS has also come to be known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

But before he died in 1941, Madam Speaker, at a ceremony at the home plate in Yankee Stadium, Lou Gehrig looked up at the crowd and he said:

For the past 2 weeks, you've been reading about a bad break. Yet today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.

That story, Lou Gehrig's story, stayed with me as a child.

Now, Madam Speaker, as a Member of the United States Congress, fast forward decades later. This same cruel disease has swept upon my own family and we, as a family, quickly learned about the profound trauma it has caused so many other Americans.

ALS takes about 2 to 5 years to destroy a body and exhaust a family. It is 100 percent fatal. Its victims lose the ability to write and walk and talk and eat and move and, finally, to breathe.

Earlier this year, several hundred persons deeply affected from ALS, along with their courageous caregivers and friends, joined me and another Member of Congress on the other side of this body to discuss a legislative initiative.

We are all now really familiar with Zoom calls, and on that particular Zoom call, on the little chat box on the side of the screen, one kind person said: "I wish all of America could hear this constructive conversation between Members of Congress."

Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a horrific pandemic. COVID-19 has become a daily reminder of our fragility and mortality. It is an urgent health crisis, and scientists and government regulators worldwide are responding to this urgency, as are we, by accelerating the testing and improving approval processes for treatments and vaccines.

I recently discussed these dynamics with our Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr. Stephen Hahn, who was optimistic that we may just be able to put this pandemic behind us by early summer.

So, Madam Speaker, I divert for a moment because I want to applaud the